

want to live in peace. We believe that they have the desire, and hopefully the courage, to reject violence and hatred as means to attain national independence.

The Bible tells us that as Joshua stood on the verge of the Promised Land, he was given one exhortation: "Chazak Ve'ematz." "Be strong and of good courage."

Strength, without courage, will lead only to brutality. Courage, without strength, will lead only to futility. Only genuine courage and commitment to our values, backed by the will and the power to defend them, will lead us forward in the service of humanity.

To the Congress of the United States and to the great people of America, on behalf of the people of Israel, I want to say today: chazak ve'ematz, be strong and of good courage; and we, and all peoples who cherish freedom, will be with you.

God bless you.

And God bless America.

Thank you.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At noon, His Excellency Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 12 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 12:30 p.m.

□ 1245

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PRINT OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2803. An act to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 1-minutes on each side.

A MARINE—A MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Harlon Block and his high school teammates took their friendship, bravery and boldness off the football field and on to the battlefield.

Twenty-two-year-old Corporal Block, from the small border town of Weslaco, Texas, would end his journey as a Marine atop an extinct volcano on Iwo Jima. February 23, 1945. The single most patriotic photographic scene in American history would erupt.

Six men vowed to raise a large American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, as they said, "so that every Marine on this cruddy island can see it."

That picture would be the last for three of those heroes, including Harlon Block. Admiral Chester Nimitz said, "Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Harlon Block's desire to fight for freedom was a common trait for those warriors who thought the American flag was worth dying for.

This Memorial Day we will remember men like Harlon Block, the other 400,000 of the Greatest Generation who died in the great World War II and all those who died in America and for America's service.

We shall never flinch, never flee, never fear, because we will never forget the Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

KENTUCKY MINERS

(Mr. CHANDLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Amon Brock, Jimmy D. Lee, George Petra, Paris Thomas, Jr., Roy Middleton and Steve Bryant. These are the names of Kentucky miners who have died in the last week.

As we just heard this morning, the other body acted on behalf of our miners, and it is critical that the House take immediate action and pass H.R. 5389, a comprehensive mining bill that will not only crack down on negligent

operators but save lives. This body should not risk another miner's life by failing to act.

I call on all of my colleagues to reach across party lines for the sake of our miners who are simply trying to go to work and provide for their families.

DEMOCRATS OPPOSE SECURING THE BORDER

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to securing our Nation's borders in order to ensure that our citizens remain safe and secure. One of my Republican colleagues from Virginia recently introduced an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would permit members of our Armed Forces to assist with border protection under certain circumstances.

The Democrats like to say they are working to keep our country secure, but they voted "no" on this common-sense amendment, and this is not the first time they voted against important border security and national security measures.

Republicans voted to pass a major border security bill this past December, but Democrats voted "no" on the bill.

Republicans voted to pass the REAL ID Act to make sure that people who receive driver's licenses are here legally, but Democrats voted "no" on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have had ample opportunity to show that they are serious about border security. Yet every time they get a chance to prove it, they vote "no."

IN HONOR OF GILLETT, ARKANSAS' CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my hometown of Gillett, Arkansas, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. This is a significant milestone for our community and for all those who shaped our town's history.

Gillett was incorporated in 1906, several decades after the first settlers migrated there from Fulton County, Illinois, in 1881. These early settlers purchased land; built modest homes; farmed crops of oats, corn and cotton; and developed orchards; and raised cattle. They worked hard to establish a town, building the first school and the first church in 1886, the first store in 1888, and lobbying for the completion of the railroad from Stuttgart, Arkansas, to the new town in 1892.

The name Gillett first appeared in 1892 after community leaders designated the town's first U.S. post office in honor of Francis M. Gillett, president of the railroad company. The